

Application No.: 10/631,868**Docket No.: 2336-201****REMARKS**

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2-3 and 6-7 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 2-4 and 6-19 are pending in the application. Allowable claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claims 1 and 5, respectively, with further changes for improving claim language. Claims 4 and 8 have been amended to depend from allowable claims 2 and 3. New claims 9-19 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The Abstract has been revised in compliance with commonly accepted US patent practice. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The rejections of claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 are either moot or believed overcome in view of the above amendments. It should be noted that the above amendments have been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not necessitated by the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 include the indicated allowable subject matter and should be allowed.

New independent claim 9 is also believed allowable over the art because the art clearly fails to teach or suggest the claimed backlight inverter comprising, among other things, a reference signal generator coupled to said rectifier for generating a reference signal based on said output voltage from said rectifier; an overvoltage detector for detecting said output voltage from said rectifier; a lamp voltage detector for detecting a voltage corresponding to a current flowing through each of said lamps; a voltage selector coupled to said overvoltage detector and said lamp voltage detector for selecting a higher one of the voltage detected by said overvoltage detector and the voltage detected by said lamp voltage detector; a first comparator coupled to said voltage selector for comparing the voltage selected by said voltage selector with an overvoltage detection reference voltage and outputting a comparison signal indicative of whether an overvoltage condition has been detected; a second comparator coupled to said first comparator and said reference signal generator

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for comparing the comparison signal with said reference signal and outputting a duty cycle adjustment signal; and a logic coupled to said second comparator, said output driver and said operation stop control for outputting either said duty cycle adjustment signal or said operation stop signal to said output driver depending on a level of said operation stop signal.

Claims 10-19 depend from claim 9, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 9.


Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.


Respectfully submitted,

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